

minster Hall before the king, the lords spiritual and temporal, and the judges on a charge of denying the real presence. The scene might have tried the fortitude of the bravest heretic, but the stout Lambert, in whom the spirit of the future Puritan burned, maintained his opinion in argument with the king himself.

"Answer as touching the sacrament of the altar," commanded Henry. "Is it the body of Christ or no?"

"I answer with St Augustine/" replied poor Lambert, seeking to shield himself with the name of the great Father. "It is the body of Christ after a certain manner."

"Answer me not out of St Augustine," pressed Henry. "Tell me plainly whether it be the body of Christ or no!"

"Then I say it is not," was the reply.

"Mark well," warned Henry; "you are condemned by Christ's own words—*Hoc est corpus meum*"

Whereupon Cranmer and several other prelates filled out several hours with their arguments, to make impossibility seem certainty to the staunch heretic.

Lambert still professed his inability to believe in the dogma of the real presence.

"Choose," said Henry at last. "Will you live, or will you die?"

"I commit my soul to God, and my body to your clemency," returned the steadfast heretic.

"Then you must die; I will be no patron of heretics."

And die he unflinchingly did, four days later, the fearful death of the man who asserted his right to question a dogma which he could not accept even at royal dictation.

While repressing papists who denied his supremacy, Henry, it is evident, had no sympathy with, or toleration for, advanced Protestant views. As far as the Reformation was a national movement, Henry favoured it. As far as it was an independent movement, he sought to repress it. He reformed the constitution of the Church; he would not tolerate any thoroughgoing reformation of its doctrines. As an independent movement it consequently did not make much progress in his reign. His reforming measures, as far as they went, strengthened the power of the crown at the expense of the pope, and of the Parliament which, partly from national